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FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW

**Consumer and Food Economics Research Division, Agricultural Research Service,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

A quarterly report on current developments in family and food economics and economic aspects of home management, prepared for home economics agents and home economics specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service.

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CHANGES IN URBAN FAMILY SPENDING, 1950 to 1960-61

The level of living of urban families¹ increased by about an eighth between 1950 and 1960-61, according to data from Surveys of Consumer Expenditure for those years. City families spent an average of \$5,390 for current living in 1960-61 (see table). Their average expenditure in 1950 was \$3,808, which in terms of 1961 purchasing power amounted to \$4,736.

Average expenditures of urban families and single consumers, 1960-61 and 1950

Item	Average expenditures		Percent of expenditures for current consumption	
	1960-61	1950 ¹	1960-61	1950
Expenditures for current consumption ² -----	\$5,390	\$3,808	100.0	100.0
Food and beverages-----	1,401	1,195	26.0	31.4
Housing, total-----	1,588	1,035	29.5	27.2
Shelter, fuel, light, refrigeration, and water-----	992	596	18.4	15.6
Household operation-----	319	178	5.9	4.7
Housefurnishings and equipment-----	277	261	5.1	6.9
Clothing, materials, services-----	558	437	10.4	11.5
Personal care-----	155	85	2.9	2.2
Medical care-----	355	197	6.6	5.2
Recreation-----	217	168	4.0	4.4
Reading and education-----	109	58	2.0	1.5
Automobile purchase and operation-----	700	443	13.0	11.6
Other transportation-----	93	67	1.7	1.8
Tobacco-----	95	68	1.8	1.8
Other expenditures-----	119	55	2.2	1.4
Gifts and contributions-----	303	165	---	---
Personal insurance-----	324	177	---	---

¹ From the Survey of Consumer Expenditures in 1950. See *Study of Consumer Expenditures, Incomes and Savings, Statistical Tables, Urban U.S.—1950*, (University of Pennsylvania, 1956-57), vol. 18.

² The classification of items in the two surveys is not strictly comparable.

Higher expenditures in the more recent period were made possible by higher incomes. Incomes averaged \$6,691 before taxes and \$5,906 after taxes in 1960-61, in comparison with \$4,237 before taxes and \$3,910 after taxes in 1950.

Out of their larger incomes families in 1960-61 made greater outlays for gifts and contributions than in 1950—\$303 as compared with \$165—and for personal insurance and retirement plans—\$324 and \$177, respectively. In 1950, due partly to the wave of scare buying at the beginning of the Korean conflict, families had an average net dissaving of \$74. (That is, debts increased more than assets.) In 1960-61 they made an average net saving of \$177.

Expenditures were higher in 1960-61 than in 1950 in all major categories of consumption. However, significant shifts occurred in the proportion of the total expenditure used for the different categories. For example, food and beverages and clothing decreased in importance, while shelter (including the dwelling, fuel, light, refrigeration, and water) increased. (See chart.) The share of family living expenditures taken by these three basic categories of the budget together decreased from 58 percent in 1950 to 55 percent in 1960-61.

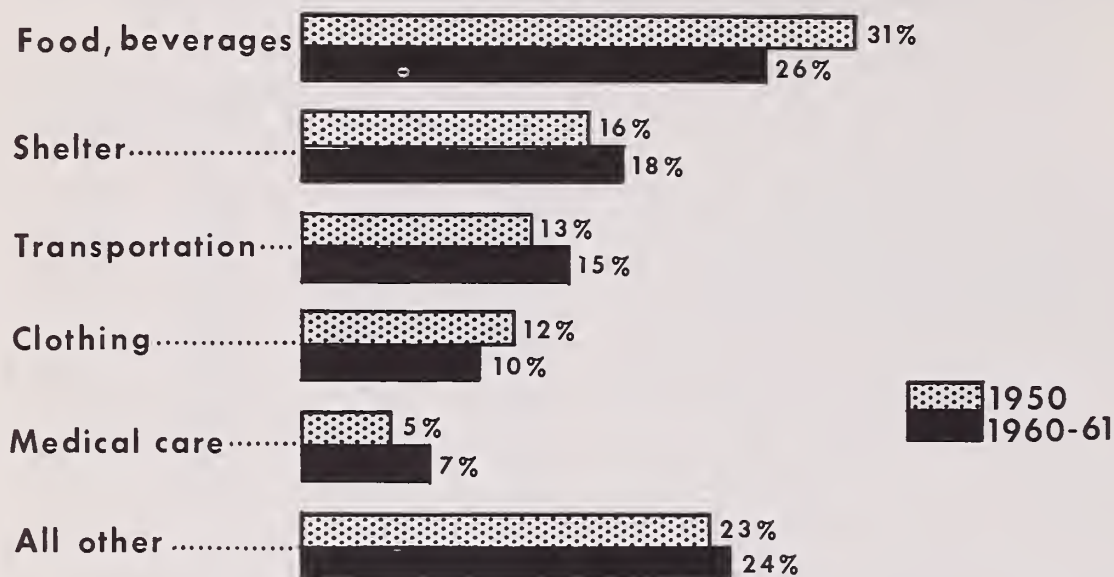
The decrease in the share of total expenditures taken by food and beverages is one of the most striking changes revealed by the new study. Food and beverages accounted for 30 percent of the family's expenditures for current living in 1950, but only 26 percent in 1960-61. This decrease in the relative importance of food and beverages results in large part from the increase in income, which permits families to maintain their spending for food and beverages and still satisfy other formerly unmet wants. It is also explained in part by the fact that food prices rose less during the decade than the average for all items purchased by consumers.

The decrease in the relative importance of clothing expenditures—from 12 to 10 percent of the total—continues a downward trend that has been evident over the past half century.

¹ "Families" in this report include families and "unrelated individuals."

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES

Urban Families, 1950 and 1960-61



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The increased importance of spending for shelter—from 16 to 18 percent of total expenditures for current living—results in large part from improvements in the level of housing. Contributing to this improvement were the growth in home ownership and “trading up” in quality of housing as the move to the suburbs progressed.

Transportation also took a larger proportion of the urban family’s expenditures for living in 1960-61 than in 1950. Spending for the purchase and operation of automobiles increased from 12 to 13 percent of the total during that time. Almost three out of four families were car owners in 1960-61, compared with about three out of five families 10 years earlier. The number of two-car families increased also, as suburban living spread, and families used their cars more intensively. These changes all contributed to the uptrend in automobile expenditures.

Medical care and personal care each took a greater share of family spending in 1960-61 than in 1950. About one-fourth of the total medical expenditure in 1960-61 was for hospitalization, surgical, and other forms of health insurance or health service plans, which were reported by three out of four urban families.

The information in this report is from a nationwide survey of consumer expenditures conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The BLS will also publish data on expenditures of rural nonfarm families in 1961, and the USDA on expenditures of farm families in the same year. Findings from the rural nonfarm and farm surveys will be reported in *Family Economics Review* as they become available.

For further information about expenditures and income of city families in 1960-61 and more details about the way the data were collected, see *Consumer Expenditures and Income, Urban United States, 1960-61*, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Report No. 237-38 (April 1964).

NET WORTH, ASSETS, AND DEBTS OF FAMILIES

The net worth of the "average" U.S. family amounted to about \$22,600 at the end of 1962, according to a survey made by the Bureau of the Census for the Federal Reserve Board.¹ For individual families² it varied over a wide range, from negative amounts to millions of dollars. Out of every 100 families in the population—

- 8 had negative net worth—that is, more debts than assets.
- 17 had net worth of from \$0 to \$999.
- 31 had \$1,000 to \$9,999.
- 35 had \$10,000 to \$49,999.
- 8 had net worth of \$50,000 or more.

Among families headed by a person 35 to 44 years old, average net worth on December 31, 1962, was \$19,500, in contrast with \$34,800 for those with heads 55 to 64 years old. (*See table 1.*) Families in which the head was self-employed in his own business or profession (including farm operators) were considerably better off as to net worth than other families.

Components of Net Worth.—The \$22,600 net worth of the average family represented assets amounting to \$23,100 minus personal debts (excluding automobile debts) of \$500. For the families with negative net worth, assets averaged only about \$365 and debts \$900, leaving a negative balance of approximately \$535. This group of families included a third of the youngest families (head under 25 years) and about one-fifth of the families headed by a person 25 to 34 years old. (*See table 2.*)

More families owned an automobile than any other one type of asset except money in the bank or other liquid assets (such as savings bonds and shares in building and loan associations or credit unions). Of every 100 families at the end of 1962, approximately—

- 80 had liquid assets.
- 70 owned an automobile.
- 60 owned equity in a home.
- 30 had investments in stocks, marketable bonds, real estate, or mortgages.
- 20 had money in a farm or nonfarm business or profession in which they were active in management.
- 10 had such miscellaneous assets as funds held in trust or in profit-sharing and deferred income plans; royalties; and patents.

On the other side of the ledger, 50 out of every 100 families owed some personal debt, not including automobile debt. ("Personal debt" here refers to consumer debt not secured by any of the assets listed above, such as installment debt on furnishings, equipment, and other consumer durables; home modernization loans; and debts to doctors and hospitals.)

The composition of the family's net worth changes as the head ages and the net worth increases. (These two conditions usually, though not always, go together.) Most young families own a car, have liquid assets, and owe personal debts, but few have acquired an equity in a

¹ Reported in *Survey of Financial Characteristics of Consumers*, Federal Reserve Bulletin, March 1964, pp. 285-293.

² "Families" in this report include families and "unrelated individuals."

house, investments in stocks and bonds, or an interest in a business or profession. (See table 3.) Thereafter, up to retirement age or thereabouts, the proportion of families with owned homes, investments, owned business or profession, and assets in life insurance, annuities, or retirement plans increases, while the proportion with personal debts decreases.

Table 1.—Average assets, personal debts, and net worth of families, by age of head, December 31, 1962

Age of head	Assets	Personal debts (excludes automobile)	Net worth
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
All families -----	23,071	483	22,588
Under 25 -----	1,255	493	762
25 to 34 -----	8,153	492	7,661
35 to 44 -----	19,988	546	19,442
45 to 54 -----	26,189	730	25,459
55 to 64 -----	35,137	356	34,781
65 and over -----	30,977	259	30,718

Table 2.—Families with specified net worth, by age of head, Dec. 31, 1962

Age of head	Total	Negative	\$0-999	\$1,000- 4,999	\$5,000- 9,999	\$10,000- 24,999	\$25,000- 49,999	\$50,000 and over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All families -----	100 ¹	8	17	17	14	24	11	8
Under 25 -----	100	33	48	14	5	(²)	(²)	(²)
25 to 34 -----	100	18	26	25	15	13	3	1
35 to 44 -----	100	8	13	18	18	28	8	7
45 to 54 -----	100	7	10	19	10	29	16	9
55 to 64 -----	100	2	14	10	14	29	16	15
65 and over -----	100	2	17	13	17	25	16	10

¹ Due to rounding to whole numbers, percentages may total \pm 100.

² No cases or less than 0.50 percent.

Table 3.—Families reporting specified assets and personal debt, by age of head, December 31, 1962

Age of head	Assets							Personal debt (excludes auto- mobile)
	Own home	Auto- mobile	Life insur- ance, annui- ties, retire- ment plans	Liquid assets ¹	Invest- ments ²	Busi- ness, profes- sion ³	Mis- cel- lan- eous ⁴	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All families -----	59	73	58	78	29	17	12	50
Under 25 -----	12	75	43	74	5	1	8	72
25 to 34 -----	42	86	58	76	21	12	10	72
35 to 44 -----	60	83	66	81	28	20	16	63
45 to 54 -----	71	81	68	80	33	20	14	54
55 to 64 -----	69	70	62	77	38	23	12	32
65 and over -----	64	46	38	78	29	14	9	19

¹ Checking accounts, savings accounts, shares in savings and loan associations and credit unions, U.S. Savings Bonds.

² Stocks, marketable bonds, mortgage assets, real estate, business not personally managed.

³ Equity in farm or nonfarm business in which family was active in management.

⁴ Assets in trust, in profit-sharing or deferred income plans; oil royalties; patents, etc.

INCOMES OF U.S. WOMEN

About 60 percent of all women in the United States receive some money income in their own right. The proportion varies among age groups, from 40 percent of the young (14 to 19 years old) to 80 percent of the elderly (65 years and older). (See table 1.)

The amount of money received by many of these women is quite small. This is partly because the only money many of them receive is from a part-time job or such sources as interest on a savings account, social security benefits, public assistance grants, or rents. Out of every 10 women reporting income in 1962, about 3 had year-round, full-time jobs, 4 had jobs for shorter periods of time (sometimes only a few hours, days, or weeks), and 3 had no paid employment at all. About two-fifths of the women receiving income that year had less than \$1,000, and only 7 percent had as much as \$5,000. Their median income was about \$1,350.²

Incomes of the youngest (under 20) and the oldest (65 or over) women were considerably below those of other ages. Approximately 80 percent of the young and 60 percent of the elderly received less than \$1,000 in 1962, and median incomes were approximately \$400 and \$900, respectively. These incomes reflect their main sources, which for the teen-age group are after-school or vacation jobs, and for the older women social security or other pension benefits.

Table 1.—*Women (14 years of age and over) receiving income, and median income in 1962, by age*

Age	Women receiving income		Median income	
	Any income	Income from full-time job	Women with any income	Women with full-time jobs
	Percent	Percent	Dollars	Dollars
All -----	58	16	1,350	3,450
14 to 19-----	41	3	400	2,750
20 to 24-----	64	20	1,600	3,200
25 to 34-----	50	16	1,750	3,600
35 to 44-----	53	20	2,100	3,500
45 to 54-----	60	27	2,250	3,600
55 to 64-----	60	21	1,650	3,550
65 and over-----	80	4	900	2,600

Incomes of Women with Full-time Employment

In general, the women reporting the largest incomes were those with year-round, full-time paid employment. The median income for this group was \$3,450 in 1962.

The median income of men with year-round, full-time jobs was \$5,800, or about 70 percent greater than that of the women. Part of this difference is due to occupational differences. Women workers are largely concentrated in clerical and service occupations where pay scales are likely to be low. Moreover, women frequently have lower incomes than men in the same occupational groups. Table 2 shows the median wage or salary incomes of full-time employed women and men in the occupational groups common to women.

¹ *Women* in this article refers to females 14 years of age or older. The source of the data in this article is: Bureau of the Census. *Current Population Reports, Consumer Income*, Series P-60, No. 41, October 1963.

² Median income figures are rounded to the nearest \$50.

Table 2.—*Median wage or salary income of women and men with year-round, full-time employment, by principal occupational groups of women, 1962*

Occupational group	Women	Men
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Professional, technical, and kindred-----	4,850	7,350
Managerial, official, proprietor (except farm)-----	4,300	7,450
Clerical and kindred-----	3,850	5,600
Sales-----	2,700	6,200
Operative and kindred-----	3,150	5,300
Private household work-----	1,100	—
Service other than household-----	2,300	4,400

Discrimination against women in setting pay rates undoubtedly accounts for some of the difference between wage and salary incomes of men and women in the same occupational group. However, this is not the whole story. Each occupational group obviously includes jobs requiring different degrees of training, skill, and responsibility, and it may be that men held more of the most demanding and therefore better paying ones. It seems likely that men worked more overtime, too, and that more of them received pay differentials for years of service. Men are generally more stable as job-holders than women, partly because they stay in the labor force continuously while women move in and out as their family responsibilities change. In January 1963, more than one-third of the men as compared with one-fifth of the women workers had been on the same job over 10 years, and twice as large a proportion of men as of women had been on the same job more than 15 years.³

The higher wage and salary incomes of men may also reflect the fact that more men are “moonlighters”—that is, working in more than one job. In May 1963, for example, about 7 percent of the employed men and 2 percent of the employed women held two or more jobs.⁴ For most “moonlighters,” at least one of their jobs was a full-time one.

Incomes of Women Heading Families

About 10 percent of all families were headed by women in 1962. These women did better than the average for all U.S. women when it came to income. This, of course, was partly because of payments received as aid to dependent children, social security benefits, and alimony. The median for female family heads receiving any income was about \$1,900, and for those with full-time jobs all year about \$3,700. Incomes of other members brought the total income for families of these employed women up to approximately \$4,900. This was about \$2,000 less than the total for families headed by fully employed men.

Incomes of Women “Unrelated Individuals”

The women with the highest median income (\$3,800) were those the Census calls “unrelated individuals” (unmarried, widowed, separated, or divorced women not living with relatives) who had year-round, full-time jobs. These probably include a considerable number of single, well-educated “career women” with relatively high incomes, giving a lift to the general income level for the group.

Emma G. Holmes

³ *Job Tenure of American Workers, January 1963*. Monthly Labor Review, p. 1146, October 1963.

⁴ *Multiple Jobholders in May 1963*. Monthly Labor Review, p. 251, March 1964.

EQUAL PAY ACT OF 1963 BECOMES EFFECTIVE

Speaking of women's incomes, higher pay is in order for some women workers now, since the Equal Pay Act of 1963 went into effect June 11, 1964. This act forbids an employer whose employees are covered by the minimum wage law to discriminate between them on the basis of sex alone in setting wage rates. He must pay women the same wages as men for equal work on jobs requiring equal skill, effort, and responsibility, and performed under similar working conditions. If he has been paying women less than men for equal work, moreover, he will have to raise the women's wages instead of cutting the men's to eliminate the difference. This act does not, of course, rule out different rates of pay based on a seniority or merit system, or one where the worker's earnings are determined by the quantity or quality of his production.

Since the Equal Pay Act applies only where the minimum wage provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act are in force, many workers are still not covered by it. For example, it does not apply to employees in certain retail and service establishments such as hotels, motels, and restaurants; hospitals and institutions for the care of the sick, mentally retarded, and such; amusements or recreational establishments operating seasonally; small newspapers, telephone exchanges, laundries and dry cleaning establishments; and certain other establishments where volume of sales is small and most of the goods and services are sold within the State where the business is located.

Employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement that was in effect on May 11, 1963, and ends after June 11, 1964, will be exempt from the provisions of the Equal Pay Act until the agreement terminates or until June 11, 1965, whichever comes first.

The idea of equal pay legislation is not new. State laws were in effect in almost one-half of the individual states when the Federal law was passed—the first of these dating back to 1919. A variety of equal pay bills had been considered by Congress over a period of many years before it finally passed this one on June 10, 1963.

FAMILY FOOD DISCARDS

How much of the food families bring into their kitchens is discarded instead of eaten by the family? What do food discards mean in terms of lost nutritive values?

The effect of edible discards on the calorie and fat content of the family food supply has been studied in three small groups—city families in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Los Angeles, California, and farm families in DeKalb County, Missouri. The homemakers volunteered to keep records of the foods used and discarded in their homes for four 1-week periods. During each period they kept records for two or three different groups of food, and by the end of the four periods had covered all foods.

The records kept by the homemakers indicate that 7 to 10 percent of the calories in the food supplies of these households were thrown away, fed to animals, or used for nonfood purposes. Food discards reduced the average number of calories per person per day in household food supplies as follows:

DeKalb County	-----	from 3,025 to 2,780
St. Paul	-----	from 2,550 to 2,375
Los Angeles	-----	from 2,570 to 2,325

The lost calories were largely from discarded edible parts of foods rich in the nutrient fat. Discard of meat, poultry, and fish caused the greatest loss in the cities, and discard of milk

products other than butter the greatest loss on the farm. Much of the "discarded" fluid milk on farms was fed to animals, including pets. Discard of food in the fats and oils (including butter) and grain products groups also accounted for considerable loss of calories. (See table 1.)

Table 1.—*Loss of calories in discarded edible foods, by food group*

Food group	DeKalb County, Mo.		St. Paul, Minn.		Los Angeles, Calif.	
	Calories lost per person per week	Percent of total lost calories ¹	Calories lost per person per week	Percent of total lost calories ¹	Calories lost per person per week	Percent of total lost calories ¹
All food -----	1,715	100	1,250	100	1,745	100
Meat, poultry, fish -----	500	29	560	45	1,145	66
Milk products (excluding butter) -----	625	36	100	8	85	5
Grain products -----	235	14	220	18	160	9
Fats, oils (including butter) -----	180	10	190	15	260	15
Vegetables, fruits, nuts -----	115	7	130	10	70	4
Sugars, sweets -----	30	2	35	3	10	1
Eggs -----	30	2	15	1	15	1

¹ Due to rounding to whole numbers, percentages may total ± 100 .

All of the households studied in St. Paul and 90 percent in DeKalb County discarded some food from the meat, poultry, fish group. (See table 2.) Within this group the items discarded by the most families were meat and poultry drippings and trimmed-off fat, in that order. Together these accounted for most of the discarded meat, poultry, and fish. At least 80 percent of the St. Paul and DeKalb households discarded grain products, vegetables, and milk products, and at least 50 percent discarded food fats and oils, eggs, and fruits. (This type of information was not obtained in Los Angeles.)

Table 2.—*Households discarding food, and quantity discarded in a week, by food group*

Food group	DeKalb County, Mo.		St. Paul, Minn.	
	Households discarding	Average quantity discarded (all households)	Households discarding	Average quantity discarded (all households)
	Percent	Pounds	Percent	Pounds
Meat, poultry, fish -----	90	0.59	100	0.99
Milk products (excluding butter) -----	83	8.00	85	1.27
Grain products -----	92	0.68	94	0.68
Fats, oils (including butter) -----	83	0.18	61	0.23
Vegetables -----	83	1.16	98	1.28
Fruits -----	53	0.30	66	0.58
Sugars, sweets -----	43	0.08	55	0.12
Eggs -----	52	0.15	56	0.09

The calorie loss from food discards was smaller than expected. The researchers consider that it would have been higher if the data had been collected in a single week instead of four widely separated weeks, and if the households had been a random sample instead of selected on the basis of the homemaker's interest. A picked sample rather than a random sample is frequently used in such an exploratory study. However, the responsiveness of volunteer homemakers raises the question of whether they are as prone to discard food as others.

The studies of used and discarded food were done by the Consumer and Food Economics Research Division in cooperation with the University of California, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Missouri. Details about the way the studies were done and more findings from them are given in the October 1963 issue of the *Journal of Home Economics*. (See *Discard of Edible Food in Households*, pages 633-638.)

Sadye F. Adelson

A CONSIDERATION OF CASH VS. CREDIT BUYING

Buy now and pay later, or save now and buy later? The first alternative has wide appeal because it means immediate satisfaction of wants. Saving ahead to pay cash has its appeal, too, for although it means going without for a while it also means being able to satisfy more wants in the long run. It is the choice that might well be made by the family considering a purchase that is not an immediate necessity—say a replacement for an out-of-date but still usable refrigerator or a new, but not essential, piece of furniture—or the family planning ahead for the equipping of its first house.

The table shows how the “buy now and pay later” and the “save now and buy later” plans would work in the purchase of five items of household equipment from a certain mail order company. In the “buy now” plan the items are to be purchased and paid for in monthly installments, as provided for in this company’s credit plan for the purchase of appliances. In the “save now” plan they are to be paid for with cash saved in monthly amounts equal to the installment payments.

The family that saved and bought for cash would have the washing machine, clothes dryer, refrigerator, range, and dishwasher (bought one after the other) in 9 years. The family that used the installment credit plan would need 20 months more than that to pay for the same five items, because it would have an extra \$200 to pay for credit charges. In this 20 months the first family, by continuing to save at the same rate as the installment payments, could accumulate cash enough to buy another major item, such as a TV set or room air conditioner.

Money and time required to buy five items of equipment on a specified installment plan, and with cash saved at the same rate

Item	Months required—					
	Cash price	Credit charge ¹	Cash price plus credit charge	Monthly payment ¹	To pay credit price ²	To save the cash price at monthly payment rate ²
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number
Range -----	224	44	268	10.50	25.5	21.3
Refrigerator -----	250	49	299	11.00	27.2	22.7
Washing machine -----	242	49	291	11.00	26.5	22.0
Clothes dryer -----	183	35	218	9.00	24.2	20.3
Dishwasher -----	160	26	186	7.50	24.8	21.3
Total -----	1,059	203	1,262	--	128.2	107.6

¹ Based on the installment credit plan offered by a certain mail-order company for purchase of appliances. This plan allows 36 months to pay for a \$500 purchase, shorter periods for smaller amounts.

² Smaller final payments are represented by fractional months.

Lucile F. Mork

PERSONAL INCOME IN 1963

The median personal income of U.S. families and unattached individuals amounted to \$6,140 in 1963, according to the Department of Commerce’s Office of Business Economics.¹ This represented a \$300 or 5 percent rise in personal income since 1962, when the median was \$5,840.

¹ “Size Distribution of Income in 1963,” U.S. Department of Commerce, *Survey of Current Business*, pages 3 to 11, inclusive, April 1964.

Consumer prices also increased in 1963; therefore, the \$300 increase in personal income meant a boost of about 2 percent in buying power. This is about the same as the annual increase in buying power since 1947.

Approximately 12.3 million families and unattached individuals had personal incomes above \$10,000 in 1963—1 million more than in 1962. The number with less than \$4,000 declined during the year from 17.5 to 16.9 million.

“Personal income” includes money income from all sources plus the net rental value of owner-occupied homes, the value of food and fuel produced and used on farms, and wages in kind.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION EXPANDS ITS CONSUMER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Food and Drug Administration has recently stepped up its consumer education activities, expanding its two existing consumer programs and adding a third. A new Division of Consumer Education combines and coordinates the three branches carrying on these programs—the Consumer Information, Consumer Consultant, and Consumer Survey branches. It operates under the assumption that an informed consumer is a better consumer and needs less Government protection than one who is not informed.

The Consumer Information Branch prepares informational materials of various kinds, including pamphlets, exhibits, films, slides, records and tapes, and radio and TV scripts. It prepares materials suitable for use by many kinds of groups, such as school children, senior citizens, adult education groups, and the blind. This Branch is also responsible for answering the many letters of inquiry which come from consumers all over the country.

The Consumer Consultant Branch provides for personal contact with consumer groups, through consumer consultants or specialists located in the FDA field offices. For some time, part-time consumer consultants have been working on this program. Now the plan calls for a full-time consultant in each of the 18 FDA field district offices. (Offices are located in Boston, New York, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Atlanta, New Orleans, Dallas, Cincinnati, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle.) The job of the consumer specialists is to “provide channels of communication,” through which FDA carries information about its program to consumers and consumers convey their needs and express their views to FDA.

The Consumer Survey Branch, which is just being organized, will conduct studies of consumer attitudes, interests, prejudices, understandings, buying habits, and product use. Findings from these studies will, it is hoped, help FDA to serve and protect consumers more effectively and direct its educational efforts to the best purpose.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW ANSWERED

Family Economics Review is distributed regularly to home economists of the Cooperative Extension Service and heads of home economics in colleges and universities. Others who may receive this periodical on request are: College and university administrators and teachers, research workers, social welfare workers, public health nutritionists, high school home economics teachers, and members of the press and information services. Those wishing to receive Family Economics Review regularly (except Extension personnel) should write to the Consumer and

Food Economics Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Center Building, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781. Each request should specify what type of work the writer is engaged in. The mailing list for Extension Service personnel is maintained by the Federal Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Students and homemakers may not be added to the mailing list for Family Economics Review. Students who think they will want the publication as a teaching tool after graduation should wait until they are situated in their new jobs before sending their requests.

Teachers frequently ask for enough copies of an issue to distribute to members of their classes. They can usually be provided with up to five extra copies, but not more than that. Because of the limited budget for printing, only enough copies are printed to supply the regular mailing list plus a small surplus to answer requests for single copies. Anyone wishing multiple copies of a particular article may have duplicate copies made, giving credit to Family Economics Review as the source.

Once a year USDA sends each person on the "request" mailing list a postcard inquiring whether he or she wants to continue receiving Family Economics Review, and whether the address is still correct. Those who do not return the card are dropped from the list. Because of this it is important to get the card back within the specified time. Each year a few evidently forget to do this, then write to ask why they are no longer receiving their copies.

The answer to questions about publication dates is that Family Economics Review is published four times a year, usually in March, June, September, and December. Occasionally, however, for reasons beyond our control, it is not possible to adhere to this schedule. This happened with the first issue of 1964, which came out in April instead of March. The December issue is customarily devoted to papers presented at the annual Outlook Conference, which is held each November in Washington, D.C.

SOME NEW USDA PUBLICATIONS

COMPOSITION OF FOODS—RAW, PROCESSED, PREPARED. Agriculture Handbook 8, Revised 1963. \$1.50 from Sup. of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

This publication is a standard reference for food values—the most comprehensive in this field. It presents food values for 2,483 food items (the 1950 edition included only 751 items). Values for some nutrients in nearly every food item have been revised and many new foods have been added. The new foods include numerous kinds of nut, fish, and poultry items; foods in prepared or partially prepared form; and foods of tropical or semi-tropical origin. Values for additional nutrients are also included in the revised edition.

SANITATION IN HOME LAUNDERING. Home and Garden Bulletin No. 97 (April 1964). Single copy free from Office of Information, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.

This 8-page bulletin discusses the importance of disinfectants in home laundering, and reports on the use of four types of disinfectants that have been found effective in killing bacteria during laundering.

A CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO USDA SERVICES. Miscellaneous Publication No. 959. Single copy free from Office of Information, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.

This handy 49-page booklet gives an excellent idea of the many services USDA performs for consumers. It includes digests from USDA publications on food, health, clothing, housing and equipment, pest control, gardening, recreation, family finance, and emergencies. It lists by subject matter a large number of USDA publications available to consumers.

USDA FOOD PLANS TO BE REVISED

The USDA food plans, for which the April 1964 cost estimates are shown below, are designed to help families and other groups plan nutritionally adequate and satisfying meals for the money they can afford. Amounts of foods suggested in the food plans need to be revised from time to time as more is learned regarding the nutritional needs of people and the nutrient content of foods, and as food habits change. Such revisions are now being made, based on the National Research Council's 1963 recommended dietary allowances, the nutritive values of foods as published in the 1963 revision of *Composition of Foods. . . Raw, Processed, Prepared* (Agriculture Handbook No. 8), and USDA's most recent estimates of food consumption patterns.

We expect to present the revised food plans in the September issue of Family Economics Review. Slight revisions reflecting food plan changes will be made as soon as possible in USDA popular publications of the food budgeting series. Continued use of these publications prior to revision is encouraged, since they contain useful food management information that will be affected only slightly by the food plan revisions. The publications to be revised are *Family Food Budgeting—for Good Meals and Good Nutrition*; *Food for the Family with Young Children*; *Food for the Family with School Children*; *Food Guide for Older Folks*; *Food for the Young Couple*; *Family Fare*; and *Nutrition Up to Date, Up to You*.

ESTIMATED COST OF 1 WEEK'S FOOD

Cost of 1 Week's Food at Home, Estimated for Food Plans at Three Cost Levels,¹ April 1964—U.S.A. Average

Sex-age groups	Low-cost plan Dollars	Moderate-cost plan Dollars	Liberal plan Dollars
FAMILIES			
Family of two, 20 to 34 years ² -----	14.20	19.40	21.90
Family of two, 55 to 74 years ² -----	12.70	17.40	19.60
Family of four, preschool children ³ -----	21.20	28.10	32.20
Family of four, school children ⁴ -----	24.40	32.80	37.40
INDIVIDUALS ⁵			
Children, under 1 year-----	3.10	3.90	4.20
1-3 years -----	3.80	4.70	5.40
4-6 years -----	4.50	5.80	6.90
7-9 years -----	5.30	6.90	7.90
10-12 years -----	6.20	8.30	9.60
Girls, 13-15 years-----	6.50	8.80	10.10
16-19 years -----	6.70	8.80	10.10
Boys, 13-15 years-----	7.10	9.80	11.10
16-19 years -----	8.40	11.40	12.90
Women, 20-34 years-----	5.60	7.70	8.70
35-54 years -----	5.40	7.50	8.50
55-74 years -----	5.10	7.00	8.00
75 years and over-----	4.90	6.60	7.50
Pregnant -----	7.00	9.10	10.10
Nursing -----	8.80	11.20	12.40
Men, 20-34 years-----	7.30	9.90	11.20
35-54 years -----	6.80	9.20	10.30
55-74 years -----	6.40	8.80	9.80
75 years and over-----	6.20	8.40	9.30

¹ These estimates were computed from quantities in food plans published in USDA Home Economics Research Report No. 20, *Family Food Plans and Food Costs*. The costs of the food plans were first estimated by using the average price per pound of each food group paid by nonfarm survey families at three selected income levels in 1955. These prices were adjusted to current levels by use of *Retail Food Prices by Cities* released periodically by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

² Ten percent added for family size adjustment. For derivation of factors for adjustment, see HERR No. 20, appendix B.

³ Man and woman 20 to 34 years; children, 1 to 3 and 4 to 6 years.

⁴ Man and woman 20 to 34 years; children, 7 to 9 and 10 to 12 years.

⁵ The costs given are for individuals in 4-person families. For individuals in other size families, the following adjustments are suggested: 1-person—add 20 percent; 2-person—add 10 percent; 3-person—add 5 percent; 5-person—subtract 5 percent; 6-or-more-person—subtract 10 percent.

CONSUMER PRICES

Table 1.—*Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (including single workers) (New series)¹*
(1957-59=100)

Group	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1964	March 1964	April 1964
All items -----	107.7	107.6	107.7	107.8
Food -----	105.8	106.0	105.7	105.7
Food at home -----	104.2	104.4*	104.0*	103.9
Food away from home -----	114.3	114.4	114.7	114.9
Housing -----	106.9	106.9	107.1	107.0
Shelter ² -----	108.1	108.3**	108.4	108.2
Rent -----	107.3	107.5	107.5	107.7
Homeownership ³ -----	108.5	108.8	108.9	108.6
Fuel and utilities ⁴ -----	107.7	106.8	107.3	107.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	106.6	106.6	106.1	103.3
Gas and electricity -----	108.1	106.2**	107.1	108.0
Household furnishings & operation -----	102.7	102.7	102.8	102.9
Apparel and upkeep ⁵ -----	105.0	105.1	105.3	105.6*
Men's and boys' -----	105.2	105.0	105.2	105.9
Women's and girls' -----	101.4	101.8	102.1	102.2*
Footwear -----	110.9	110.7	110.7	110.9
Transportation -----	109.4	108.6	108.9*	109.0
Private -----	108.0	107.2	107.4	107.6
Public -----	118.3	118.4	118.3**	118.4
Health and recreation -----	112.7	112.9	113.1	113.4
Medical care -----	118.2	118.5	118.7	119.0
Personal care -----	108.5	108.4	108.7	108.7
Reading and recreation -----	113.1	113.3	113.6	114.0
Other goods and services ⁶ -----	108.3	108.4	108.5	108.6

¹ The "new series" Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage-earner and Clerical-worker Families (excluding single workers) is identical with the Index above, except where indicated by asterisks. Indexes indicated by * are 0.1 higher, those indicated by ** are 0.1 lower than the corresponding indexes in the CPI for families.

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

³ Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

⁴ Also includes telephone, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.

⁵ Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, jewelry, and apparel upkeep services not shown separately.

⁶ Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and funeral, legal, and bank service charges.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2.—*Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earner and Clerical Worker Families (Old Series)*
(1957-59 = 100)

Group	Apr. 1963	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1964	Mar. 1964	Apr. 1964
All items -----	106.2	107.6	107.6	107.8	108.0
Food -----	104.3	105.7	105.8	105.6	106.1
Food at home -----	102.6	104.0	104.0	103.8	104.3
Food away from home -----	112.8	114.4	114.6	114.9	115.1
Housing -----	105.8	106.9	106.9	107.2	107.3
Rent -----	106.5	107.3	107.4	107.5	107.7
Gas and electricity -----	107.5	108.4	104.8	106.8	108.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	104.2	106.6	106.6	106.5	105.1
Housefurnishings -----	98.5	98.4	98.6	98.9	99.0
Household operation -----	109.9	110.9	111.3	111.7	112.0
Apparel -----	103.8	104.3	104.2	104.4	104.6
Men's and boys' -----	104.1	105.7	105.5	105.4	105.8
Women's and girls' -----	101.4	101.0	100.9	101.5	101.3
Footwear -----	110.2	111.0	111.2	111.2	111.4
Other apparel -----	100.9	101.3	101.4	101.4	101.6
Transportation -----	107.0	108.9	108.3	108.9	108.7
Private -----	105.5	107.5	106.6	107.3	107.1
Public -----	116.5	118.5	119.4	119.4	119.6
Medical care -----	116.1	118.2	118.5	118.8	119.1
Personal care -----	107.6	109.1	108.8	109.0	109.0
Reading and recreation -----	111.0	113.0	113.8	113.9	114.3
Other goods and services -----	105.8	108.3	108.3	108.5	108.5

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 3.—*Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities Used in Family Living*
(1957-59 = 100)

Item	May 1963	Dec. 1963	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1964	Mar. 1964	Apr. 1964	May 1964
All commodities -----	104	104	104	105	104	105	105
Food and tobacco -----	—	104	—	—	105	—	—
Clothing -----	—	110	—	—	110	—	—
Household operation -----	—	108	—	—	108	—	—
Household furnishings -----	—	96	—	—	96	—	—
Building materials, house -----	—	100	—	—	101	—	—
Auto and auto supplies -----	—	103	—	—	103	—	—

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Service.